

April 27, 2010

An adjourned meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, from the April 21, 2010, adjourned Council meeting was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 6:00 p.m., April 27, 2010.

Members present: Mayor W. D. Tharp; Councilwoman Mary L. Flood; Councilman Jeffrey B. Hubbard; Councilman Steve C. Rush; Councilman C. G. Stanley, Jr.; Councilman James A. Vest; and Vice Mayor Robert T. Wandrei.

Members absent: None

Staff present: City Manager Charles P. Kolakowski; City Attorney W. W. Berry, IV; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher.

Mayor Tharp opened the meeting.

Rosie Jordan, Director of Finance, reviewed with Council highlights of the current month financial reports, which included: tax revenues, solid waste, water and sewer, electric, status of the Stoney Creek Dam project, status of Capital Improvement Projects.

The City Manager explained some of the current Capital Improvement Projects.

City Manager Kolakowski presented the proposed FY 2010-11 budget. The City Manager said Council has been kept aware of the status of revenues and the efforts to control costs and minimize impacts for the rate payers and taxpayers. Mr. Kolakowski said the proposed budget, as presented, is able to provide an adequate level of services in all cases, and in some cases, still a very good level of services.

The City Manager reviewed the highlights of the General Fund: proposing a decrease in the transfer from the Electric fund down to \$1,300,000; the reduction in the General Fund is because of reductions in education spending. Mr. Kolakowski said the Solid Waste Fund remains stable and it is no longer subsidized – no increase is proposed in that area.

City Manager Kolakowski spoke regarding the Water and Sewer Fund: a 2% increase in water rates is proposed and a 4% increase in sewer rates – the need for that revenue comes primarily from the onset of the Stoney Creek Reservoir financing – the increase in rates will cover the expenses for the financing for next year.

The City Manager said no increase is proposed in the base electric rate; however, a \$1.00 increase in the customer charge for the residential level and a proportional increase for the customer charge for the various rate categories; also proposed is a \$2.00 increase in the dusk to dawn lights to try to recover the actual costs of providing that service.

Mr. Kolakowski stated that the proposed budget calls for a reduction in staffing of one full-time position in the Recreation Department and keeping several other positions frozen and unfunded in other departments.

The City Manager stated that a number of Capital Projects are being proposed – radios are a significant portion of the capital expenditures this year for the Police, Fire

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Department and Electric Department. The current radio system is being phased out and a new system is going to be put in.

Chief of Police Day explained the Central Virginia Regional Radio System includes the counties of Bedford, Campbell, Amherst, and the City of Lynchburg. He stated the current system is breaking and will not be supported and the new system is expected to start in 2014.

The City Manager stated that keeping the businesses the City has is just as important as attracting new ones.

The City Manager commended the city staff for their efforts over the past several years as the City has had reductions in force across the board, reduced operating expenses, and the staff has kept the lights on, the water flowing, coming and going, the garbage gets picked up, roads got plowed, and the City has been able to maintain a level of service that the citizens have come to expect.

City Manager Kolakowski stated the next work session on the budget could be held on May 11, 2010.

It was the consensus of Council that the budget work session be held at 5:30 p.m. on May 11, 2010

Councilman Vest suggested that the City Manager meet with business and industry leaders regarding the proposed budget.

The City Manager stated he will start meeting with the business and industry leaders on April 28.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m. until May 11, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. for a budget work session.